



## COMMISSION ON DISABILITIES MINUTES

**Monday, March 10, 2008  
6:00 PM**

**FIFTH FLOOR LARGE CONFERENCE ROOM, CITY HALL,  
3900 MAIN STREET, RIVERSIDE, 92522  
GENERAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT, 951-826-5427**

### **MISSION STATEMENT**

*"The mission of the Commission on Disabilities is to promote greater awareness of, respect for, and the total participation of individuals with disabilities into all aspects of life."*

CALL TO ORDER: 6:02 PM

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

1. Roll Call: Chairperson Debbie Keller, Paul Van Doren, James Stream, Gigi Welch, Linda Garcia, Donald Hawecker.

ABSENT: Chmaj, Excused: Robinson, Puffer, Brosious.

Also present were Deputy City Attorney Neil Okazaki and ADA Coordinator Monique Gordon.

2. **Introductions and Public Comment Period** - This is the portion of the meeting specifically set aside to invite your comments regarding any matter within the Commission's jurisdiction.

Public in attendance: Resident John Lonberg, Residents Ty and Linda Lawyer, and Donna Kirchoff – Inland Regional Center.

Linda Lawyer noted the California Disability Rights Riverside Chapter which is attended by Commissioner Lesley Robinson.

Mr. Lonberg suggested that the COD inquire into the fact that the City is currently resurfacing Polk Street at Magnolia. Although the street and sidewalk are being repaired, there are many driveways along that street that are sloped so that wheelchairs can tip into the street. Now would be a good time to correct this problem since the work is currently under construction. A picture of the area was provided.

Mr. Lonberg presented a picture of the newly constructed Galleria parking structure with the movie theatre. He noted that the structure was constructed 9 inches lower than the minimum required. He noted that 8'2" is the minimum height required and the photo notes a maximum clearance of 7'5" a difference of 9 inches.

Mr. Lonberg noted and provided a photo showing that this same Galleria parking structure has a pedestrian walkway exiting the first level of the parking structure. This exit is constructed so that there is no handicapped ramp for exiting the parking structure from the ground level – only stairs.

The COD discussed that this information should be brought to the attention of the City Council after the Plans Examiner has an opportunity to address this issue.

The COD requested that the City plans examiner be invited to the next meeting and address the Title 24 issue of the new, inaccessible parking structure at the Tyler Mall. The COD would also like to discuss inaccessibility issues in (Riverside Plaza) department stores and other businesses since he has received complaints from residents. The COD would like to find out what the City process is concerning Title 24, State Building Codes and the ADA? Planning Department and/or Plans Examiners would be the most knowledgeable concerning this information.

The COD is also interested in issues concerning new businesses that have inaccessible check-out lines and other barriers. What City department is involved in managing interior accessibility issues?

3. Minutes for the meeting of February 11, 2008

M/S Stream/Hawecker to approve the minutes as presented.

AYES – 4 (Stream, Hawecker, Garcia, Keller); NOES – 0; ABSENT – 3 (Brosious, Chmaj, Puffer, Robinson); ABSTAIN – 2 (Welch, VanDoren)

OLD BUSINESS

4. Community Outreach: Additional Advertisement of the COD – Next Steps

- A. ADA Coordinator Gordon noted that an ad was purchased to run in the Local section of the Press Enterprise March 5–9, 2008 concerning COD public meetings. Verify that the ad ran. Since the cost of the ad is inexpensive it is a publicity medium that can be used regularly. Research the free section of the paper that notes different meetings in different areas.
- B. Commissioner Van Doren noted that the Neighborhood Conference was scheduled for May 31, 2008. Members of the COD are planning to have a table at this event.
- C. Chairperson Keller noted that she had spoken to La Shawn Butler, Parks and Recreation Community Services Superintendent, about placing COD promotional flyers in the transit vehicles. Ms. Butler had no problem with publicizing the COD in this manner. Special Transportation Supervisor Mayhan was concerned that too many organizations would be entitled to advertise in a similar fashion and disrupt the cleanliness of the vehicles. The COD discussed that this privilege could be available to City organizations only. Commissioner Hawecker noted that the Special Transportation buses do not have advertising panels like those on the RTA bus vehicles.
- D. ADA Coordinator Gordon advised that the utility bill inserts had been distributed to Library and Park public counters. The COD suggested that similar information be sent with a cover letter to the following organizations:
  - a. Sunshine School Mobile Therapy Unit
  - b. La Granada Smith Mobile Therapy Unit
  - c. Area Board XII Disabilities Advocacy Agency
  - d. Inland Regional Center

- e. Riverside Unified School District Special Education
- f. California School for the Deaf
- g. Blind Support Services

#### 5. Disabled Disaster Preparedness – Next Steps

On January 14, 2008, Emergency Services Manager Tony Coletta and American Red Cross representatives attended the COD meeting to discuss Disaster Preparedness and the Disabled Community. How can this information be used to benefit the disabled community?

Commissioner Hawecker noted that all of the COD should attend the City sponsored disaster preparedness courses. One of the Red Cross representatives noted that her job was to solicit information from communities concerning what the disabled may need coming into a shelter situation. The Red Cross seemed open for input on disabled needs in case of emergency.

Chairperson Keller suggested that the COD develop a list of suggestions and forward to the Red Cross representative. This way, the Red Cross can respond and let the COD know how they are set up to receive the disabled. This information can be compiled by the ADA Coordinator and forwarded to the Red Cross. The ADA Coordinator will contact the Red Cross and inquire about the types of disabled information they have incorporated since the last disaster and what kind of information the Red Cross might find helpful for the future.

Commissioner Van Doren will provide the COD with information concerning State level disaster preparedness and response activities to the April 14, 2008 meeting.

#### 6. Discussion Item: Public Service Announcement concerning Proper Placement of Trash Containers in conjunction with Public Works Solid Waste Division –Next Steps

The COD discussed that this item goes back to working with Code Enforcement (CE) on sidewalk obstructions. While the CE Courtesy Reminder let residents know that vehicles and trash containers should not block sidewalks, a PSA concerning proper placement of trash containers would inform the public about proper placement. The PSA would also show that the Refuse Drivers are responsible for righting any containers that tipped over after being emptied. The Solid Waste Division Manager would be interested in participating in a project like this with the COD.

Commissioner Hawecker will follow up with CE to determine the progress of the Courtesy Reminders and citations written concerning sidewalk obstructions.

#### 7. Annual Report to City Council from the Commission on Disabilities.

The COD discussed the Annual Report to the City Council which is currently scheduled for January 2009. Since the COD has not had the opportunity to address the Council, the COD will take this opportunity to start early and relay what the COD has accomplished, is currently working on and plans for future projects. Also to be included is how the City Council can facilitate any future projects.

The COD will work on outlining the draft Annual Report to City Council and remain mindful of the above discussion concerning Council facilitation of the COD's work for the benefit of the disabled community.

#### 8. Annual Board and Commission Reception – March 24, 2008 at 5:30 pm in the lower level of the Municipal Auditorium.

NEW BUSINESS

9. 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Senior Conference - Janet Goeske Center, March 26, 8:30 am to 1:00 pm.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

10. ITEMS FOR FUTURE CONSIDERATION

- A. Parks and Recreation - detailed description of universally accessible parks

11. INFORMATIONAL ITEM

- A. Performance Measurement from Code Enforcement concerning Sidewalk Obstruction by Trash Containers and Vehicles (standing report)

Date	Postcards Distributed by Code Enforcement
January 2008	70
February 2008	Pending

12. ADJOURNMENT: 7:33 pm